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27 August 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 27 August 1965

DDCI was in the chair.

25X1 Current Intelligence Briefing covered increasing number of SAM sites in NVN/

In this connection, the DDCI asked DDP if there was anything that could be done to stabilize the situation. FitzGerald responded that there was really nothing that could be done at this time. (See Action item 1)

Cline noted that a schedule of briefings for the Morning Meeting for a week in advance was available. He noted that the question of the Soviets making large grain purchases may be upcoming in the next few weeks, and the only nation which has substantial reserves is the U.S.

Abbot Smith noted that an Estimate on the possibility of the Soviets concealing strategic weapons was being prepared and he also noted JCS thinking as to the U.S. "blindness" to the Soviet threat under a general disarmament agreement. He raised the possibility of a SNIE as to whether the Soviets were in a race with the U.S. Apollo Program to put men on the moon. This initiated a lengthy discussion among DDI, DDS&T, and DDCI. It was the consensus that a draft paper should be prepared which would examine the evidence which has accumulated over the past year or so. (See Action item 2)

25X1 Bannerman reported on the difficulties in securing the wreckage

25X1 in the Mekong River. He noted Agency recruitment efforts on the Career Trainee program.

Bross noted that the Agency would soon be in receipt of a letter from BOB on the question of cost effectiveness evaluations. He said that he believed that the DCI's peculiar position in the U.S.G. would probably exempt us from some aspects of this. In this connection, the Executive Director reported on the meeting he had attended yesterday of U.S.G. Executive Officers, chaired by Rowen, which spoke to this matter. He noted that Rowen had been specific in stating that at this point the concept was intra-agency rather than inter-agency.

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Wheelon noted the successful recovery of the second bucket of a CORONA last night. He reported that the first bucket of the CORONA had revealed a new Henhouse in the USSR. He reported that he had just learned that there was working level agreement that the size of the warhead on the [REDACTED] which is substantially larger than had been previously estimated. He tabled photographs of a Soviet plow-share experiment which had created a river near Semipalatinsk.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He asked the DDCI for guidance on the cable [REDACTED] concerning briefing [REDACTED] on the situation in South Vietnam. The DDCI said that with the passage of that message to the Department, the Agency would take no further initiatives in the matter.

DDCI noted that Kirkpatrick's 5-year plan was on schedule and would be finished by 1 September. He thanked those present who had furnished excellent support to Kirkpatrick. He noted that he will be receiving a friend of the DCI [REDACTED] this morning. He requested that Bross take Peer deSilva to see Vance next week.

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Peer deSilva arrived at this point and noted he had just completed a conversation with Jorgensen in Saigon.

ACTIONS

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2. Reports and evidence of Soviet intention to place men on the moon, and in this connection specifically their competition with the U.S. Apollo program, should be examined and a draft memorandum is to be prepared. (BNE with assistance from DDI, DDS&T, and DDP)

3. The DDCI requested that TSD be included in the Agency briefings for the DCI. (EA/DCI)

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L. K. White

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